

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated and purified DNA encoding urocortin II protein that has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 10 or 11.

2.-3. Canceled

² ~~1~~ (Previously Presented) A vector comprising the DNA of claim 1 and regulatory elements necessary for expression of said DNA in a cell.

²
~~3~~ ² ~~5~~ (Original) The vector of claim ~~4~~, wherein said DNA encodes a urocortin II protein having the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:11.

6. (Amended) A host cell ~~transfected with~~ comprising the vector of claim 4, ~~said vector encodes urocortin II protein.~~

⁴
~~5~~ ⁴ ~~7~~ (Previously Presented) The host cell of claim ~~6~~, wherein said cell is selected from group consisting of a bacterial cell, a mammalian cell, a plant cell and an insect cell.

⁵
~~6~~ ⁵ ~~8~~ (Original) The host cell of claim ~~7~~, wherein said bacterial cell is *E. coli*.

9.-46. Canceled